



Newsletter #1

About the Project

The Rural Youth Future project aims at improving employment opportunities for young people in rural areas and supporting sustainable rural development.

6 things you need to know about Rural Youth Future.

It aspires to:

- ✓ **Improve** the effectiveness of youth employment policies in rural areas by identifying and implementing sustainable solutions that address the needs of young people.
- ✓ **Address** the challenge of depopulation decline in rural areas by promoting access to emerging opportunities and reducing the youth unemployment rate.
- ✓ **Increase** the focus on digital skills and new forms of work resulting from the pandemic, recognizing their importance in promoting rural development in a sustainable way.
- ✓ **Enhance** the capacity of policy teams, including authorities, policymakers, and officers, who support young people in rural areas to stay in their territories with better working conditions.
- ✓ **Foster** knowledge and experience sharing activities to facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovative solutions in youth employment policies for sustainable rural development.
- ✓ **Develop** a comprehensive framework for implementing youth employment policies at municipal, regional, and national levels to ensure their sustainability and effectiveness.

What policy instruments does the project address?

- ✓ Children, Youth, and Families Guidelines for 2021-2027 in Latvia
- ✓ National Youth Plan in Portugal
- ✓ ESF+ Galicia 2021-2027 Operational Programme in Spain
- ✓ Integrated Development Plan 2021-2027 of Peshtera Municipality (IDP) in Bulgaria
- ✓ Local development strategy of Local action group Goričko 2020 for the programming period 2021-2027 in Slovenia
- ✓ Tartu County Development Strategy in Estonia

The Geography of our Project: 9 partners - 7 countries:



- ✓ GALICIA EUROPE FOUNDATION (Leader) - **Spain**
- ✓ General Directorate of Youth, Participation and Volunteer - **Spain**
- ✓ Association Centre for Sustainability and Economic Growth - **Bulgaria Organisation**
- ✓ Municipality of Peshtera - **Bulgaria**
- ✓ Smart House, Institution For Research And Sustainable Development Martjanci - **Slovenia**
- ✓ University of Latvia - **Latvia**
- ✓ Portuguese Institute of Sports and Youth, IP - **Portugal**
- ✓ Association of Municipalities of Tartu - **Estonia**
- ✓ KMOP - POLICY CENTER - **Belgium**

Mapping of some Good practices on Improving the role of youth policies for rural sustainable development

DYAS Project

(Galicia Europe Foundation - Spain)

The Young Digital Ambassadors for SMEs project has trained young people in digital marketing for social networks. Then, they have gone on to work as **Young Digital Ambassadors collaborating with small businesses** and companies in the territory of influence Chaves-Verín. The Young Ambassadors have put their knowledge at the service of those responsible for the companies so that they are autonomous in the management of content for their social networks once the project is completed.



Youth Resources Map and Virtual Youth Advice Office (General Directorate of Youth, Participation and Volunteer – Spain)

The “Youth Resources Map” is an initiative that seeks to offer information so that young people can benefit from the resources that the departments that Xunta makes available to them in areas such as: Education, training and employment, equality, mobility, housing, youth Information and leisure and educational free time.

The map is linked to the “Virtual Youth Assistance Office”, a channel where young people can ask doubts related to the areas included in the map by filling out a form, to which they will be assisted with individualized advice and guidance.





RuralLAB 3.0 Project (Bulgaria)

Depopulation of rural areas may further aggravate the economic decline already faced by these regions and thus widen the gap between rich and poor regions in Europe. The European Commission has therefore identified depopulation as a priority. To combat this problem, the ruralLAB project focuses on equipping young people in rural areas with **tools and skills in social entrepreneurship**, thus preventing them from leaving for urban areas and preventing these areas, which are rich in tourist and ecological resources and have economic potential, from becoming empty.

“PONI POMURJE” PROJECT ENTREPRENEURIAL OVER CHALLENGES (Slovenia)

“PONI Pomurje 2023 – 2028” is a national project aimed at fostering entrepreneurship in Slovenia, offering a 4-month training program for potential entrepreneurs. Participants develop and execute their business ideas with mentoring and comprehensive support. The goal is to engage 106 individuals, creating 106 business plans and launching 106 products, with a target of at least 30% transitioning to successful entrepreneurship. Priority will be given to applicants from Pomurje with smart specialization backgrounds. Inclusion is through a public tender published every five months, with up to 11 candidates selected per round.



“Code for All” (Portugal)

The “Code for All” in Fundão, Portugal, showcases the synergy between education investment and rural community development. This collaboration between a startup and the local council aims to train young individuals in IT through “Coding Bootcamps.” Open to those over 18 without specific educational requirements, these programs democratize access to tech education. Participants undergo 650 hours of training, emerging as junior developers with internships in partner companies. The initiative not only empowers youth with valuable skills but also stimulates local economic growth by retaining talent. Its success emphasizes the significance of public-private partnerships in regional development and underscores the efficacy of job-focused training in driving innovation in rural areas.



Rural Youth Entrepreneurship Programme - “The Countryside Will be!” (“Laukiem Būt!”) (Latvia)



The programme targets young entrepreneurs in rural areas, offering intensive training and a competition for financial awards to kickstart business ideas. Participants, aged 18 to 40, can join individually or as a team. Activities include 6 days of training, individual consultations, and a competition with cash prizes. Since 2011, 1942 youths have trained, with 513 entering the competition. In 2022, 204 individuals participated in training, generating 49 business ideas for the competition. Owned by the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre, the initiative fosters rural entrepreneurship and innovation.

To explore further

our endeavours in unlocking new horizons and fostering opportunities for enhancing the lives of rural youth, feel free to connect with us across different social media channels:



www.interregeurope.eu/ruralyouthfuture



XUVENTUDE



CSEG



UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA



Association of Municipalities
of Tartu County

